

U.S. Department of Labor

**Employment & Training Administration
Office of Job Corps
61 Forsyth Street
Room 6T95
Atlanta, GA 30303**



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
January 12, 2005

**CONTACT: Wenomia Person
Office of Job Corps
(404) 562-2372**

BAMBERG JOB CORPS STUDENTS CELEBRATE SERVICE HOURS RECORD
Bamberg Job Corps Center Donated 19,702 Hours to Volunteer Projects in 2004

ATLANTA – Bamberg Job Corps Center students displayed their talents and skills as well as their love for their communities by contributing 19,702 hours of community service in 2004, topping last year's mark by more than 12,000 hours.

Whether stocking shelves and distributing food to the needy with United Way, assisting the American Red Cross with local blood drives or even volunteering for civic beautification, students at the Bamberg JCC put their job skills training to use and made a lasting impact in the communities around them.

"Job Corps has been making a difference in the lives of our students and our neighbors since its founding 40 years ago," said Job Corps Atlanta Region Director Don Scott. "Giving back to the communities where our centers are located is one of the most important things we do as a program each year."

Students at Bamberg JCC worked with nearly a dozen organizations in 2004 and led all Job Corps Atlanta Region centers in number of hours served. Volunteer projects included: various canned food drives, assembly of care packages for homeless adults and America's soldiers overseas, numerous community blood drives and the creation of park furniture for senior citizen centers. Throughout the year, Bamberg JCC worked with organizations such as the American Cancer Society, American Red Cross, Bamberg County, the City of Denmark and United Way.

"Job Corps has been making a difference in the lives of the nation's youth since its inception, and it's vital that we teach our students the importance of giving back to their communities," Scott said. "This year we are celebrating our 40th Anniversary, and there's no better way to commemorate this occasion than by making a difference in the communities that have provided support and encouragement to each of our centers for the last four decades."

-more-

Bamberg JCC Celebrates Service Record / Page 2

Job Corps students nationwide represent one of the largest volunteer forces in the United States. Collectively, the 19 centers in the Southeast (Job Corps Atlanta Region) donated more than 101,119 hours of community service in 2004.

Projects in the region include:

- ? Blood drives with the American Red Cross
- ? Providing support for The Salvation Army
- ? Beautification projects for Make a Difference Day
- ? Various fund-raising events with local schools and churches
- ? Cleanup projects for Adopt-a-Highway
- ? Walk-a-thons benefiting various organizations (March of Dimes, Leukemia Society)
- ? Visiting the elderly in nursing homes

Job Corps is celebrating its 40th Anniversary from September 2004 to September 2005. Job Corps is the nation's largest and oldest federally funded job training and education program for disadvantaged youths ages 16 through 24. At 122 centers nationwide, the program trains 65,000 youth each year in more than 100 different trade areas. For more information about Job Corps, call (800) 733-JOBS or visit <http://jobcorps.doleta.gov>.

###